

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A utility knife tool comprising:

- a) a handle with a distal portion;
- b) a blade secured to and extending from said distal portion;
- c) an integral, movable blade cover for enshrouding the blade when the tool is not in use and exposing the blade during use;
- d) a blade-cover biasing member for urging the blade cover to a position covering the blade; and

e) a blade-cover locking system comprising a cover-lock member with a first engagement element and hand-operable cover-release member with a second engagement element wherein the engagement elements are cooperatively engageable with each other whereby engagement of said elements with each other maintains the blade cover in a locked mode covering the blade and disengagement with each other releases the blade cover from said locked mode.

2. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade cover generally enshrouds the blade as a cap structure over said blade.

3. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the cap structure has a floor with a slot through which the blade is exposed.

4. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the cap structure is arcuately movable and arcuately shaped.

5. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the cap structure is substantially transparent.

6. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade-cover biasing member is a tension spring.

7. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cover-lock member is a wall of the blade cover and the first engagement element is a notch disposed in said wall, and wherein the hand-operable cover-release member is an

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outwardly biased arm structure disposed along the handle and the second engagement element is a distal end of the arm structure situated in the notch when the first and second engagement elements are engaged.

8. A utility knife as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the blade cover is generally arcuately movable and arcuately shaped and wherein the wall of the blade cover is an inside peripheral wall accessible by the arm structure through a rear opening into the blade cover.

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